



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATS AGREE TO RECORD FINE FOR CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS

Olympia – The Public Disclosure Commission yesterday accepted two stipulated agreements from the Washington State Democrat Party who agreed to pay \$187,500 in civil penalties for campaign finance violations.

The WSDCC agreed to pay \$85,000 for failure to timely disclose the source of \$394,544 worth of contributions and for failure to disclose \$704,815 in debts and obligations during the 2004 election.

In a separate agreement, a \$100,000 suspended civil penalty from 2002 was reinstated. WSDCC was penalized \$250,000 in 2002 for failing to timely disclose the source of nearly \$6 million in contributions. \$100,000 was suspended conditioned on the party's future compliance with the Public Disclosure law.

Commission chairman Mike Connelly said this is a serious penalty for a serious offense.

"Political parties need to be leaders in state politics," Connelly said. "And the Washington State Democrats are not setting a good example."

The Commission also voiced dismay over the WSDCC's second major violation in just two years and stated that the party loses credibility each time it appears before the PDC.

WSDCC also agreed to pay \$2,500 for the PDC's investigation costs and attorney fees.

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